

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189049
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TO USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 189049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, WB, GE

SUBJECT: HOUSE NARCOTICS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 140603; (B) STATE 147829; (C) USBERLIN 1708

1. AT A JUNE 22 HEARING OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL ON THE SUBJECT OF DEMAND REDUCTION, CONGRESSMEN GLENN ENGLISH AND LESTER WOLFF QUESTIONED SENIOR NARCOTICS ADVISOR MATHEA FALCO CLOSELY ABOUT THE CUSTOMS CONTROLS WHICH EXIST IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN (WSB). THE CONGRESSMEN'S QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON THE CHECKS WHICH ARE MADE BY WEST BERLIN AND ALLIED AUTHORITIES ON PERSONS ENTERING OR LEAVING THE WSB

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189049

AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING THESE CONTROLS, PARTICULARLY AT THE SECTOR/SECTOR BOUNDARY. CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF REGULAR CUSTOMS NECESSARY WOULD BE INSTITUTED AND, IF SO, WHAT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THIS TO BE DONE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED RESPONSES TO THE

COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS INCLUDING DESCRIPTIONS OF STEPS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BEING TAKEN TO CONTROL THE INTRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS INTO THE WSB. WE WILL POUCH COPIES OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

3. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MEETING WITH EUR/CE OFFICERS TO DISCUSS THE BERLIN SITUATION IN MORE DETAIL. IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THIS MEETING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY TELEGRAM CURRENT INFORMATION ON EXISTING CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND THE MISSION'S THOUGHTS ON STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THESE CONTROLS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT CHECKS ARE MADE BY WHOM AND ON WHAT CATEGORIES OF PERSONS AT (1) CHECKPOINT CHARLIE; (2) CHECKPOINT BRAVO; (3) OTHER SECTOR/SECTOR CROSSING POINTS; (4) HEERSTRASSE; (5) TEGEL AIRPORT; AND (6) ON BUSES ENTERING THE WSB DIRECTLY FROM SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE THE MISSION'S EVALUATION OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ON STRENGTHENING SECTOR/SECTOR CUSTOMS CONTROL.

4. WE HOPE TO USE A MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE, IF ONE TAKES PLACE, TO INCREASE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS STAFF FOR THE SPECIAL LEGAL SITUATION IN BERLIN AND THE CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH ANY NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES THERE MUST BE TAKEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189049

WE DO NOT INTEND, AT THIS STAGE, TO ADVANCE ANY PROPOSALS FOR NEW CONTROL PROCEDURES.

5. ON A RELATED SUBJECT, WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE THE MISSION'S COMMENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WEST BERLIN POLICE ACTIVITIES ON THE S-BAHN AND S-BAHN PROPERTY (REF C) FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL. THIS SEEMS TO US AN EXCELLENT ILLUSTRATION OF HOW COMPLICATED NORMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CAN BE IN THE WSB AND HOW QUICKLY THEY CAN BECOME QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. CHRISTOPHER

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